

REPORT FOR THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

UNITED STATES SENATE

SUBJECT: Ambassadorial Nomination: Certificate of
Demonstrated Competence -- Foreign Service
Act, Section 304(a)(4)

POST: Republic of Honduras

CANDIDATE: James D. Nealon

James D. Nealon, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, currently serves as Civilian Deputy to the Commander and Foreign Policy Advisor at the U.S. Southern Command in Doral, Florida. A three-time Deputy Chief of Mission (including Ottawa), his impressive interpersonal skills, political acumen and policy sense have made him a successful leader at each Mission. He is adept at managing law enforcement issues, effectively embraces the interagency process, and is a creative and innovative leader who brings solid crisis management skills from past tours.

Previously, Mr. Nealon served as Deputy Chief of Mission at the Embassies in Ottawa, Canada (2010-2013), in Lima, Peru (2007-2010) and Montevideo, Uruguay (2005-2007). He also served as Charge d'Affaires in Montevideo for 16 months. Earlier in his career he served as Counselor for Public Affairs at the Embassies in Madrid, Spain and Budapest, Hungary, as Press Attaché at the Embassies in Manila, Philippines and Budapest, as Cultural Attaché in Montevideo, and as Assistant Press Attaché in Santiago, Chile. Mr. Nealon also served in Washington in the Bureau of Human Resources of the United States Information Agency, which subsequently merged with the State Department.

Mr. Nealon is the recipient of numerous awards including eight Senior Foreign Service Performance Awards, a Superior Honor Award and two Meritorious Honor Awards, one as a Group Award. His foreign languages include Hungarian and fluent Spanish.

Mr. Nealon received a degree in American History from Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island in 1980, and did graduate study, also in history, at Boston College. Before joining the Foreign Service he was a high school teacher and athletics coach.